

Ravenshead U3A Magazine



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



Ravenshead



Pictured within the KINGS MANOR,
one half of the U3A group that went to York in June 2014.

Issue No 5: Summer 2014

Charity Number : 1154123

Website : www.u3asites.org.uk/ravenshead

Welcome from the editor.

Welcome to the summer edition of the Ravenshead U3A magazine.

This is our fifth magazine and yet again I am delighted with the variety of articles our members can produce. We have a report of our first residential visit organised by Judy and Alan Walker, which judging by the comments appears to have been a resounding success. I am sure that Audrey and Aubrey Roberts' account of their time as landlords of the Sherwood Ranger will rekindle a few memories, and I think that there must be many other members with stories of Ravenshead to share!

If you think you can produce an article for publishing in the next edition please submit it (preferably in a word processed format) to the editor, Judith Moore, by email XXXXXXXXXX or contact by phone 01623 797529

Deadline date for the next edition : **OCTOBER 21st, 2014**

Judith Moore (editor)

Our new committee members

I came to Ravenshead 48 years ago with my husband and two small children. I opened the Ravenshead School of Dancing where I taught for 35 years. Through my interest with flower arranging I took a Diploma Course, and now do flower arranging with the Cornwater Club and workshops with WI groups etc. I joined U3A Ravenshead at its inception and enjoy country dancing, yoga, luncheon club and outings. **Lesley Green**



I am a native of Nottinghamshire and my family have lived in Ravenshead for the past 56 years, although the address was then Linby. I began my working career as an invertebrate ecologist and finished it as a librarian working in public libraries. My interests since an early age have been natural history, gardening, family history and local history. In the 1990s I studied for a masters degree in local and regional history which renewed my particular interest in the history of Ravenshead and the surrounding area. Since joining the Ravenshead U3A I have been joint organiser of the Family History group and coordinator of the Local History group. I also walk with the Thursday Walking group and have enjoyed several of the occasional visits. **Philip Jones**

My job led me to move to Ravenshead twenty seven years ago having spent the previous twenty one years in Yorkshire. I originate from Heanor so it was a return to home territory really.

I joined Ravenshead U3A two years ago and I am a regular at yoga , country dancing and the luncheon club. My main interests are golf, gardening and walking. **Keith Adams**



Thoughts from the New Chair!

Following our very entertaining AGM in June our new committee met as usual on the third Tuesday of the month. Amongst other things we discussed what the various committee roles and responsibilities involve so as to check that everything is covered and to ensure that our U3A runs smoothly and successfully. It is surprising (or maybe not!) to note what a lot goes on “behind the scenes”, and this is perhaps an opportunity to thank all committee members for the hard work they put in on our behalf. Thanks also to retiring committee members Rona, Chris and Margaret and welcome to our three new members who introduce themselves opposite.



Of course it isn't only committee members who are working hard. We mustn't forget groups organisers, visit coordinators, 'meeters and greeters', the refreshments team and all the other helpers and volunteers. However, we still need more volunteers, particularly for the monthly meetings which take a lot of setting up and packing away. If you could help to spread the load a little please let us know. (Contact Paul Craddock or sign up at the monthly meeting.)

I am looking forward to my term as Chair, and it will be interesting to see what this year brings as our U3A continues to grow and develop. **Judith Moore Ravenshead U3A Chair**

Ravenshead U3A Committee Contacts

Judith Moore	Chair	
Bob Ford	Vice-Chair	
Peter York	Treasurer	
Paul Craddock	Business Secretary	
Ivan McNulty	Membership Secretary	
Brenda Sharratt	Coffee and Conversation	
Kate Asquith	Speaker Finder	
Alan Paul	Web Editor	
Alan Walker	Visits Coordinator	
Lesley Green	Committee Member	
Keith Adams	Committee Member	
Philip Jones	Committee Member	

Co-opted members: Val Ford, Groups Coordinator,
Margaret Craddock, Minutes Secretary
By Invitation: Sue Owen, Welfare
Terry Moore, Publications

More than Names and Dates

When people learn of my interest in family history they will often ask “How far back can you go?” or “How many names do you have?”. For some branches of my family tree the answers would be “not very far” and “only a few” but that does not matter - the stories behind the names are far more interesting.

For instance, because many Irish records have been destroyed, I cannot go back further than a maternal great grandfather who was born in Co.Tyrone, but I have managed to learn a great deal about his children and their strong family bond.

Thomas was married to Lavinia and they lived in Islington. In 1880 Lavinia died after giving birth to her fourteenth child in twenty years. Thomas died eight months later leaving eight surviving children.



Eveline

Four of them were old enough to fend for themselves but the youngest four Herbert (9), Lavinia (7), Henry (5) and Eveline (2) were not. Herbert and Henry went to St Mary's Workhouse School in Islington, Lavinia was taken to Derby to live with a maternal uncle and his wife (they already had six children of their own and went on to have a further eight) and Eveline disappeared for 20 years.

Herbert was apprenticed to a printer, Henry enlisted in the army at the age of 14 and spent many years abroad and Lavinia moved with her adopted family to Nottingham.

Considering the children's ages and the probability that the adults involved had only a limited education, if any, it is amazing that in 1901 Lavinia, Herbert and Eveline were all living and working in Nottingham and a few years later, when Henry left the army, he too settled here.

I have often wondered who ensured that they did not forget each other during the years that they were apart. It may have been one of the older siblings for the names Herbert, Henry, Lavinia and Eveline recurred in more than one generation of their descendants.

Herbert eventually moved to Leicester but Lavinia and Henry remained in Nottingham and they both have grandchildren living in Ravenshead (a happy coincidence). As yet I have not been able to trace Eveline's descendants.

Unfortunately she married a Smith!

Barbara Jukes U3A member

Ten things you didn't know about the Ravenshead area



- 1) The name Ravenshead appears in a charter relating to Newstead Abbey as early as 1344. Fishpool appears on a late 14th century map of Sherwood Forest in the archives at Belvoir Castle.
- 2) Queen Victoria had considered purchasing Newstead Abbey for her son, the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII), as a retreat from public life. However, the difficulties of adapting it to a royal residence were insuperable and she bought Sandringham House for him instead.
- 3) Chermside Close was named after Sir Herbert Chermside, British military attaché in Istanbul from 1889 to 1896, and Governor of Queensland from 1902 to 1904. He lived at Blidworth Dale from 1912 until 1915.
- 4) The original petrol filling station at Larch Farm was on the diagonally opposite corner to the present car showroom, i.e. at the corner of Kirkby Road and Mansfield Road (opened in 1927).
- 5) Butler Brothers were running a regular bus service between Kirkby and Blidworth, via Larch Farm and Fishpool, before the Second World War. In October 1938 the adult single fare from Larch Farm to Blidworth was 3d. (1¼p).
- 6) Mansfield, Sutton & District Co-operative Society opened a general store at Larch Farm in June 1938 (Branch No. 65) and closed it exactly 30 years later, in June 1968.
- 7) Flight Lieutenant Ralph A. P. Allsebrook, who flew on a fatal mission with the famous Dam Busters Squadron in 1943, lived at Holly Lodge on Ricket Lane before the Second World War.
- 8) Vernon Crescent and Vernon Avenue were named after Vernon Dovey, only child of William Edward Dovey, the builder of a number of houses on those streets. Vernon died from polio in 1924, aged 5.
- 9) Martin Fish, horticulturalist and TV and radio presenter, was born in Fishpool (Main Road) in 1962.
- 10) Two professional county cricketers, John Cotton, and Norman Wilfred Hill, lived in Ravenshead in the mid-1960s. Both played for Nottinghamshire.

Philip Jones, Local History Group Co-ordinator

Our Life Behind Bars!

I saw it in the Evening Post “Wanted, Licensees, please apply Hardys & Hansons Kimberley Brewery” so we sent for the form and were invited for an interview. We were offered the choice of two pubs and on December 8th 1972, we opened a brand new pub- The Spinning Wheel at



Chaddesden, Derby. We were complete novices and didn't know what to expect. We had never been to Derby and wondered if the natives were friendly; they were and we made lots of new friends some of whom we still keep in touch with.

In May 1975 we found ourselves behind bars again, this time at The Sherwood Ranger, Ravenshead, where we had done our training under the watchful eyes of John and Jean Butcher, who were the managers then. We knew quite a lot of people as some were our old school pals and our workmates. The décor was totally different from the Spinning Wheel which was quite “olde worlde”, the décor at the Ranger was “regimental” with a uniform - complete with gun shot hole, in a glass case behind the bar and a “Busby “(bearskin) in the lounge (which is now the restaurant) and four illuminated fibreglass flags of the regiments on the wall (which every one hated). By the front door was a glass panel depicting a soldier of bygone days. It was very colourful and life-like and I presume it was the local boys who, as they waited for the bus to Joseph Whittaker school, would outline his manhood in felt-tip, which I then had to wipe clean every school day before any customers saw it!

I remember we got a particularly warm welcome from the local vet and her partner on our first lunch-time session - I think that they had spotted some potential business for them as our golden labrador, Chad was sitting on the roof over the lounge. This always amused people the first time they saw him. He never fell off but the cat we had did. Fortunately he wasn't hurt, but used up one of his nine lives that day!



It snowed on June 1st but by the Friday the sun was shining and never went in

again for six weeks. We were short of bar-staff and with no cleaner either you can imagine we were very busy. By the end of the hot weather, as head cook and bottle washers we were absolutely shattered!

Both our daughters, Diane and Samantha, went to the schools on Swinton Rise and they soon made friends and were very happy there. They both also helped us in the pub, working as waitresses every Saturday lunchtime. A favourite of the customers was our homemade sweet trolley - nicknamed the pudding barrow by one of our regulars. One Saturday the offerings were less extensive than usual. Our naughty dog had jumped up on the work surface and knocked the lemon meringue pies and egg custard tarts on to the floor, licking out the fillings, but leaving the evidence of the empty pastry cases scattered across the floor!

We got to know quite a few of the local characters including one gentleman everyone called Little Bill, whom we used to still see after we retired to Blidworth, but that's another story! Another of our regulars was a gentleman who had been the chief adviser to the emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie, who told us some very interesting tales.

At that time there was no skittle alley but we had darts and domino teams who took part in the local leagues against teams in the area with a certain degree of success. There were always sandwiches on the return matches, which went down well - cheese and onion and chip butties being the favourites. I remember the first Christmas party we held for the customers' children, we were up nearly all the night before making individual trifles, cakes, goodies etc but it was worth it. I think they enjoyed themselves, anyway I hope so.

One night as we lay in bed we smelt burning! No it wasn't the pub, it turned out to be a forest fire. We became very worried about the people on Longdale Lane as one of them was my cousin and his family who lived next door to Ray and Elsie at Longdale Farm. We were also worried about our old school friends Janet and Gordon Browns' chicken-coops which they were converting into his craft centre. I believe the fire burned for quite a number of days. It was all very worrying but I assume the brave fire service saved the day if not the trees. That's just a few reminiscences of our happy time behind the Ranger bar.



Audrey and Aubrey Formon U3A members

Open Garden Event

On Saturday, July 5th Philip Jones and Michael Riley kindly opened their beautiful garden on Regina Crescent to raise money for the St. Peter's Community Building Project.

The day had started with a sharp shower and there were a few anxious moments, but committee members and friends arrived to set up (after a few false starts and some improvisation) gazebos and tables for the various stalls which included plants, cards, books, Tombola and wood craft.

Tables and chairs were arranged and teas and coffees were organised alongside a tempting array of cakes.

By ten o'clock everything was ready. Bob, armed with a good book, stationed himself at the gate and prepared to take tickets and welcome guests.

The early showers had left the garden looking and smelling fresh and beautiful and the many flowering plants and shrubs delighted visitors who enjoyed strolling along the pathways, looking into the pond and relaxing on the lawn or in the summerhouse. The weather was kind, perfect for the occasion, and there was an excellent turnout. The many willing helpers served refreshments, ran stalls, made sure that everything was running smoothly and stayed behind to help with the packing away. And the gazebos came down a lot more quickly than they had gone up!

All in all we had a brilliant day and a successful one too, as Philip and Michael were able to



present a cheque for £1,555 at our July meeting to Paul Richardson, the Project chairman. (See back inside cover.)

He in turn thanked the Ravenshead U3A for “embracing the Project” and the donation was gratefully received. As Fred Wright continued to sell his handcrafted bird tables and nesting boxes we anticipate that the final amount will be even higher! Well done, Ravenshead U3A!

Judith Moore, Ravenshead U3A Chair



**Photographs by
Dennis Harvey and
Frank Langford**



RAVENSHED U3A – INTEREST GROUPS

Group Name	Leader	Phone	Meeting Day and Time	Location	Full
Angling	Lionel Castle		Please ring for details		No
Art (Watercolour)	Audrey Leech		2nd Monday 1.30 – 4.00	Brammer Room	No
Art Gallery/Museum	Antony Gordon		Various visits arranged	Please contact for details	No
Bird watching	Peter York		Usually once a month	Please contact for details	No
Bridge	Cicely James		Not running at present	Please contact for details	
Canasta	Enid Thomas		New group about to start		
Chess and Backgammon	Jan Fraser		1 st & 3 rd Mon 10.00-12.00	Home	No
Computing (Beginners)	Alan Paul		Start again in September	Alan Paul's House	No
Computing (Intermediate)	Alan Paul		Start again in September	Alan Paul's House	No
Craft workshops	Kate Asquith		Thursday 10.00-12.00 Break until September	Brammer Room	No
Current Affairs	Carol Wright		3 rd Wednesday 2.00 - 3.30	Brammer Room	No
Family History	Barbara Jukes Philip Jones		Not running at present – starting again in Sept		
Folk Dancing	Mike, Mary Adams		2 nd & 4 th Mon 2pm - 4pm	Ravenshead Village Hall	No
French Beginners	Jill Rogers		Wednesday 10.00 – 12.00	Please telephone for details	No
French Conversation	Brian Machin		1 st & 3 rd Mon 10.00-11.30.	Please telephone for details	Full
French Conversation 2	Anick Spence		1 st & 3 rd Mon 14.00–16.00	Anick's house	No
Guitar	John Bewick		1 st & 3 rd Thur 10.15 -11.45	Ravenshead Church Lounge	No
Knitting and Crochet	Anne Lovegrove Liz Corner		2pm – 4pm Friday. Please ring for dates	Brammer Room, Village Hall	No
Local History	Philip Jones		2pm – 4pm 2 nd Tuesday	Kighill Farm	No
Luncheon Club	Chris Dean			Please ring for details	No
Mah Jong	Judy Bragg Peter York		1 st & 3 rd Tuesday 1.30-3.30	Brammer Room, Village Hall	No
Music Appreciation 1	Joan Harvey		2 nd Tuesday 2.00 – 4.00	Members' Homes	Full
Music Appreciation 2			Not running at present		
Music Appreciation 3	Fay Garrison		3 rd Tuesday 1.30 – 3.00	Members' Homes	No
Occasional Visits	Various			Please see website, U3A4U or info at monthly meeting	
Pastels	Wanda Parker		Gp 1 Wed.10.00 – 12.00 Gp 2 Fri. 10.00 – 12.00	Please ring for details	Full No
Photography	Dennis Harvey Glyne Payze		Last Wed at 2pm	Brammer Room	No
Play Reading Group	Chris Dean		2 nd Wednesday 2pm	Please ring for details	No
Reading Group 1	Carol Payze		3 rd Tuesday 2pm	Carol's house	No
Reading Group 2	Pat Brown		3 rd Tuesday 2.30pm	Members' Home	Full
Scrabble, Rumikubs and Cribbage	Susanne Smith Leslie & Rhoda		3 rd Tuesday 10am	Brammer Room, Village Hall	No
Cribbage only	Newey		1 st Tuesday 7.30-9.30	Brammer Room, Village Hall	No
Singing for Fun	Graham Jukes		New group about to start		
Strollers	John West		4 th Thursday 10am	Contact by email	No
Thursday Walks	Paul and Margaret Craddock		2 nd & 4 th Thursday - 1.30 prompt start.	Details on the website or contact Paul and Margaret	No
Wine Group 1	Lionel Castle		3 rd Friday	Members' homes	Full
Wine Group 2	Brenda Beale		1 st Tuesday	Members' homes	Full
Wine Group 3	Michael Neville		2 nd Monday	Members' homes	Full
Wine Group 4	Judy Vaughan		3 rd Tuesday	Members' homes	Full
Wine Group 5	Sue Tidbury		1 st Wednesday	Members' homes	Full
Yoga 1 (Beginners)	Jean Cooke		Wkly 1.30-3.00 Wed Starts again in September	Village Hall	No
Yoga 2	Bob Ford		Wkly 2.00–3.30 Tuesday	Village Hall	No
Yoga Group 3	Bob Ford		Wkly 10.00–11.30 Friday.	Village Hall	No

If you are interested in joining any of the above Groups but they are showing as full, please contact the Group Leader to ask to be put on a waiting list. You will then be contacted once a place becomes available or there are enough people to form a further Group.

RAVENSHED U3A – INTEREST GROUPS

Group Name	Leader	Phone	Meeting Day and Time	Location	Full
Angling	Lionel Castle		Please ring for details		No
Art (Watercolour)	Audrey Leech		2nd Monday 1.30 – 4.00	Brammer Room	No
Art Gallery/Museum	Antony Gordon		Various visits arranged	Please contact for details	No
Bird watching	Peter York		Usually once a month	Please contact for details	No
Bridge	Cicely James		Not running at present	Please contact for details	
Canasta	Enid Thomas		New group about to start		
Chess and Backgammon	Jan Fraser		1 st & 3 rd Mon 10.00-12.00	Home	No
Computing (Beginners)	Alan Paul		Start again in September	Alan Paul's House	No
Computing (Intermediate)	Alan Paul		Start again in September	Alan Paul's House	No
Craft workshops	Kate Asquith		Thursday 10.00-12.00 Break until September	Brammer Room	No
Current Affairs	Carol Wright		3 rd Wednesday 2.00 - 3.30	Brammer Room	No
Family History	Barbara Jukes Philip Jones		Not running at present – starting again in Sept		
Folk Dancing	Mike, Mary Adams		2 nd & 4 th Mon 2pm - 4pm	Ravenshead Village Hall	No
French Beginners	Jill Rogers		Wednesday 10.00 – 12.00	Please telephone for details	No
French Conversation	Brian Machin		1 st & 3 rd Mon 10.00-11.30.	Please telephone for details	Full
French Conversation 2	Anick Spence		1 st & 3 rd Mon 14.00–16.00	Anick's house	No
Guitar	John Bewick		1 st & 3 rd Thur 10.15 -11.45	Ravenshead Church Lounge	No
Knitting and Crochet	Anne Lovegrove Liz Corner		2pm – 4pm Friday. Please ring for dates	Brammer Room, Village Hall	No
Local History	Philip Jones		2pm – 4pm 2 nd Tuesday	Kighill Farm	No
Luncheon Club	Chris Dean			Please ring for details	No
Mah Jong	Judy Bragg Peter York		1 st & 3 rd Tuesday 1.30-3.30	Brammer Room, Village Hall	No
Music Appreciation 1	Joan Harvey		2 nd Tuesday 2.00 – 4.00	Members' Homes	Full
Music Appreciation 2			Not running at present		
Music Appreciation 3	Fay Garrison		3 rd Tuesday 1.30 – 3.00	Members' Homes	No
Occasional Visits	Various			Please see website, U3A4U or info at monthly meeting	
Pastels	Wanda Parker		Gp 1 Wed.10.00 – 12.00 Gp 2 Fri. 10.00 – 12.00	Please ring for details	Full No
Photography	Dennis Harvey Glyne Payze		Last Wed at 2pm	Brammer Room	No
Play Reading Group	Chris Dean		2 nd Wednesday 2pm	Please ring for details	No
Reading Group 1	Carol Payze		3 rd Tuesday 2pm	Carol's house	No
Reading Group 2	Pat Brown		3 rd Tuesday 2.30pm	Members' Home	Full
Scrabble, Rumikubs and Cribbage	Susanne Smith Leslie & Rhoda		3 rd Tuesday 10am	Brammer Room, Village Hall	No
Cribbage only	Newey		1 st Tuesday 7.30-9.30	Brammer Room, Village Hall	No
Singing for Fun	Graham Jukes		New group about to start		
Strollers	John West		4 th Thursday 10am	Contact by email	No
Thursday Walks	Paul and Margaret Craddock		2 nd & 4 th Thursday - 1.30 prompt start.	Details on the website or contact Paul and Margaret	No
Wine Group 1	Lionel Castle		3 rd Friday	Members' homes	Full
Wine Group 2	Brenda Beale		1 st Tuesday	Members' homes	Full
Wine Group 3	Michael Neville		2 nd Monday	Members' homes	Full
Wine Group 4	Judy Vaughan		3 rd Tuesday	Members' homes	Full
Wine Group 5	Sue Tidbury		1 st Wednesday	Members' homes	Full
Yoga 1 (Beginners)	Jean Cooke		Wkly 1.30-3.00 Wed Starts again in September	Village Hall	No
Yoga 2	Bob Ford		Wkly 2.00–3.30 Tuesday	Village Hall	No
Yoga Group 3	Bob Ford		Wkly 10.00–11.30 Friday.	Village Hall	No

If you are interested in joining any of the above Groups but they are showing as full, please contact the Group Leader to ask to be put on a waiting list. You will then be contacted once a place becomes available or there are enough people to form a further Group.

“Lest we forget”

The outbreak of The First World War in Europe on 4th August 1914 had not come unexpectedly. Relations between European nations had deteriorated over many months and diplomatic efforts to defuse the febrile situation had all failed. Having invaded Belgium in order to obtain a rapid advance on Paris through northern France, Germany was seen as the aggressor. In Britain there was a widespread public belief that hostilities would be over by Christmas with victory for Britain and France and with Belgium liberated. Young men flocked to the recruitment centres in their tens of thousands; politicians, church leaders and newspaper editors shared the same call of patriotism and expectation of early success. Writers, including established poets, though not insensitive to the impending sacrifices and loss of life, also caught the mood. In December 1914 Rupert Brooke published a group of sonnets with the title “1914”, which included this:

The Soldier

**If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.**

High expectations were soon disabused. The fighting on the western front became a defensive confrontation with a system of trenches stretching from the north coast to the Swiss border. Attempts to break through failed with rapidly mounting casualties; bad weather and heavy shelling by artillery churned the ground in many places to a sea of mud; bitter winter conditions and lack of adequate shelter reduced troop numbers still further. The supply of volunteers dwindled and conscription had to be introduced in January 1916. The Battle of the Somme, which was expected to achieve a major break out, was launched on 1 July 1916 but soon became the worst disaster ever suffered by British arms. The fighting dragged on till November, by which time British casualties exceeded 420,000 killed,

wounded and missing. The public mood now changed radically ; soldiers were fighting not so much for King and Country but to support their mates and save their own lives if possible. The war poets, many of them serving in the trenches, reflected this disillusion. Siegfried Sassoon, a young officer in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, publicly challenged the motives of the government in prolonging the war. A statement written by him was read out in Parliament, but he was silenced by being sent to a military hospital for traumatised officers. Wilfred Owen was being treated in the same place at the same time and was writing powerful, angry verse, including this:

Anthem for Doomed Youth

**What passing bells for these who die as cattle?
Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle
Can patter out their hasty orisons.
No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor bells;
Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,
The shrill demented choirs of wailing shells;
And bugles calling for them from sad shires.
What candles may be held to speed them all?
Not in the hands of boys but in their eyes
Shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes.
The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;
Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,
And each slow dusk a drawing down of blinds.**

When the end came with an armistice in November 1918, most people were so sickened by the carnage that it was described as “the war to end all wars”. At the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 the victors dictated harsh terms to Germany, the new nations that had emerged from the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire were recognised and the League of Nations was established. There was hope of lasting peace. It lasted just twenty years until the second great struggle of the C20 began in 1939.

David Morton Ravenshead U3A member

Ravenshead U3A 3-day trip to Worthing and Brighton.

First Outing with Ravenshead U3A – Met really nice people.

Mission Accomplished! Came to visit Brighton Pavilion – well worth it. Fellow travellers consist of old and new friends.

Historic hotel overtaken by 20th Century traffic problems.

We had a really super time, good company, good accommodation – Any chance of a visit to Hampton Court?

Good Hotel, coach, driver and itinerary. Excellent value. Very enjoyable.

Good food, Good Company – Look forward to next one!

Trip excellent hotel very good well worth the money all round. Skills driver brilliant – When is the next one?

First away break with U3A – Really enjoyed the company, variety of venues – met new people and made to feel very welcome.

Above are some of the comments written in my memory book by our members.

On Tuesday 29th April twenty-one very brave people set out on the first overnight break Alan and I had arranged for the Ravenshead U3A. The coach was a 59 seater Skills Signature Coach and was very comfortable. Our driver, Steve, couldn't have been more helpful and accommodating. We left Ravenshead at 9.30am, broke for coffee at 11am and then travelled on to Windsor for lunch before heading to our hotel in Worthing – The Chatsworth. The hotel was warm, friendly and welcoming and in general very good (although some of the ladies occupying single rooms were on the back of the hotel and they found it a bit noisy from the bus depot behind). The food at dinner that evening was to a good standard with enough choices and we then had coffee in the ballroom where there was entertainment (a singer). Breakfast on Wednesday was good and we left the hotel to journey to Brighton in time for our timed entry to The Pavilion at 10.30am. I believe everyone enjoyed the Pavilion and afterwards we all did our own thing in Brighton until the coach took us back to Worthing. Dinner that evening was again to a very satisfactory standard. After breakfast on Thursday we commenced our journey back to Ravenshead stopping off at Henley on Thames for the coffee and lunch break with a further comfort stop before arriving back at around 5.45pm.





The Royal Pavilion, Brighton started life as a ‘respectable farmhouse’ in the fishing village of BRIGHTHELMSTONE (Brighton's original name). In 1787 the Prince of Wales (later George IV) commissioned Henry Holland to transform the original farmhouse. Thus emerged a modest neoclassical structure which John Nash transformed to the grand oriental design we see to-day. This work was started in 1815 and completed in 1823. Unusually for the time, an interior designer (Frederick Grace) was commissioned to decorate the interior of the property, rather than the architect designing both the building and its interior decoration as was the custom. In 1850 the Pavilion was sold to Brighton Town Council for £54,000 by Queen Victoria, she considering it not large enough for her growing family and also not private enough because whenever she ventured out she was mobbed. The original plan had been to demolish and re-develop the site but fortunately a petition was raised to save the building and we now have this wonderful, over the top, interior for all to see.

Judy Walker U3A member

Entertainment at the A.G.M.

At our July meeting the play reading group entertained the audience with two amusing short scenes exploring the funny side of modern life: the pitfalls of buying a computer and the intricacies involved in buying a cup of coffee! The group meets at each other's homes on the second Wednesday of the month at 2 o'clock. They usually try to pick something amusing and enjoy getting into character. If you are interested in joining the group contact Chris Dean via the website groups page.



“In The Computer Shop” – Assistant Alan Kirkham, Customers Mike Arthur and Enid Thomas.



“The Coffee Shop” - First waitress Enid Thomas, first customer Alan Kirkham. Second Waitress Chris Dean second customer Mike Arthur.



We were also entertained by “U3Acoustics”, our guitar group which was one of the first groups to be set up, led by John Bewick and comprising (as John puts it) a range of abilities “from absolute beginners to 60s rockers revisiting their youth.” They’ve obviously come a long way since then and the audience enjoyed their renditions of pop and folk songs as well as their U3Acoustics sashes! Geoff Tootell played solo in the Shadows’ instrumental “Moonlight” and the audience joined in the encore “Save the Last Dance for Me.”



Holiday Time

Anyone who has just returned from holiday, I trust none of the following happened to you.

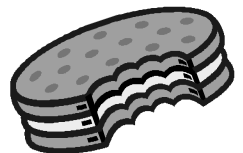
For those of you about to go on holiday, make sure you are aware of these potential “problems”.

If you stayed at home, I hope you enjoyed your custard creams!



THESE ARE ACTUAL COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY “THOMAS COOK” VACATIONS FROM DISSATISFIED CUSTOMERS:

1. “I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local convenience store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts.”
2. “We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price.”
3. “The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room.”
4. “We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as white but it was more yellow.”
5. “No-one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared.”
6. “Although the brochure said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer in the drawers.”
7. “We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish.”
8. “It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair.”
9. “We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning.”
10. “I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes.”



VISIT TO THE NEC GOOD FOOD AND GARDEN SHOW

Twenty seven bright and perky members set off in the coach for the NEC arriving at about 9.15am. Just have to remember we're in the coach park and to be back by 4pm. I, for one was determined not to buy any gadgets which either do not work as they are supposed to -or which I would soon just have to find a place to store them never to see the light of day again.

So what was the first thing we saw and bought– a super duper mop and bucket of all things, guaranteed to clean the kitchen floor and the windows with just a spray of water! (I have since tried it and it does work, but not as good as it did for the demonstrator. Surprise, surprise!) Just got to find a place to keep it.

We also tried wine and sampled gin and cheese but did refrain from buying any of these. We briefly watched a demonstration by Brian Turner and looked at possible new cookers for the new St Peter's Centre before heading to the show to see Antonio Carlucci and Gennaro Contaldo who had a great deal of trouble getting the pasta machine to work – no, we didn't buy one – before resorting to a rolling pin.



The show gardens were the next stop. These were superb this year – really impressive. One even had a pond with chocolate bubbling away in it – my kind of pond. The British legion “trench” was something as well, stocked with “provisions” and even metal rats – quite thought provoking and a very sanitised version of life in the trenches I'm sure.

The flowers were gorgeous and the jazz band played beautiful music on the lawn in the sunshine whilst we had a very well earned few minutes rest and a drink. We couldn't sit too long, too much to see.

Paul bought some herb plants and I had a bag of gluten free goodies by this time so, yes, we had to buy a trolley to put everything in! So much for not buying anything!

Paul and I finally staggered back to the coach at the allotted time bragging that we really could have stayed longer as we really hadn't seen everything but ready for a sit down – definitely not as perky as we were at 9.15am.

Slowly everyone appeared laden down with plants, flowers and goodies, everyone agreeing it had been a very enjoyable day – and did some of us catch a quick nap on the way back? Definitely not me!

Margaret Craddock U3A member

Notice Board



Do you have an interest that you would like to share with other members? You can use this notice board to post messages.

- **NOTE: New groups—Singing for Fun and Canasta are about to start—see centre page or website for contacts.**

Contact Val Ford / Judith Moore



Pictured at the July monthly meeting of the Ravenshead U3A, Michael Riley (left) and Philip Jones (right) present a cheque for £1,555 to the St. Peter's Church Hall Rebuilding Project chairman, Paul Richardson (centre). This followed the fundraising Open Garden day organised by Ravenhead U3A.

Photographed by Paul Craddock

Dates for Your Diary

(check website for latest information)

Tue Sep 9th 2014	'A Journey through Life with music' A presentation with songs and a variety of instruments. Presenter: Andy Smith
Tue Oct 14th 2014	'Dickens-the man and his characters` . Speaker: Barry Davies
Tue Nov 11th 2014	My Life in Gardening so far. Speaker: Martin Fish.

We will be observing a one minute silence at 11.00 a.m.

Tue Dec 9th 2014	'Manet to Monet' an illustrated talk on the lives of two influential French impressionist painters. Speaker: Chas Wood.
------------------	--

Social Events

Coffee and Conversation, The Church Lounge, commencing 10am.

Dates:

Mon Aug 18th 2014; Mon Sep 15th 2014; Mon Oct 20th 2014;
Mon Nov 17th 2014; Mon Dec 15th 2014.

Luncheon Group (see website for details and contact Chris Dean 792004)

Dates:

Fri Aug 15th 2014; Tue Sep 16th 2014 ; Thu Oct 16th 2014;
Fri Nov 14th 2014; Wed Dec 10th 2014

The Christmas Bash

Tue December 16th 2014
Hostess Restaurant 12.30 for 1.00 pm.
Cost to be confirmed.

Occasional Visits

*Details on website **Occasional Visits** page.*

Mon Sep 15th 2014	Visit to the National Memorial Arboretum and Lichfield
Wed November 5th 2014	Top Hat at Theatre Royal, Nottingham -All Tickets Sold
Thu Nov 27th 2014	Visit to Christmas Good Food show at the NEC
Wed Feb 4th 2015	Matinee Performance of Barnum—a few tickets left

Printed by Portland Print. Tel 01623 491255